

**From:** Casey Hammond  
**To:** [Bowman, Randal](#)  
**Subject:** Re: update on monument review process  
**Date:** Friday, June 02, 2017 2:32:55 PM

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Sounds great. Thanks.

On Jun 2, 2017, at 10:02 AM, Bowman, Randal <[randal\\_bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

A quick note to let you know that everything so far has gone unexpectedly well, to the point that I am waiting for a major problem to develop just by the law of averages.

The review team of bureau representatives has performed far above expectations, with all requests for information being responded to promptly, in most cases far sooner than I expected. The review team has also recruited a group to review public comments that is performing extremely well.

You have all seen reports on the Secretary's visit to Utah. Acting D/S Cason had a follow-up meeting of 4 hours with the Bear Ears InterTribal Coalition on May 25. BIA has held 3 Tribal listening sessions on the review so far, in Portland, Billings, Mt and Phoenix.

After some unexpected delays - and thanks to the staff of the CIO for resolving those in record time - we have contracted for a computer comment processing system to help analyze and count public comments. It is designed to work with [Regs.gov](#), and FWS has used the system for years without problems. FWS has also make their lead expert on electronic rulemaking and [regs.gov](#) available full-time to assist with the public comment analysis process.

Between comments submitted to [regs.gov](#) and those mailed to us and processed to [regs.gov](#), there were over 55,000 Bears Ears comments in that system by the May 26 closing date. All but about 3,000 have been reviewed and coded so far, and I do not anticipate problems finishing comment review early next week.

There are an additional 7-8,000 mail comments received before the deadline but not delivered internally in time to enter them into [regs.gov](#). This will likely bring the total comments on Bears Ears close to 65,000. Virtually all comments on Bears Ears are expressions of opinion for or against changes or the review generally, with no new information encountered to date.

There are approximately 76,000 comments on the other monuments in [regs.gov](#) as of 11:59 last night. We have not yet counted or processed mail comments other than those on Bears Ears.

I will provide more regular updates moving forward.